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REMARKS

The Examiner made the following remarks in the outstanding Office Action:

- The restriction requirement between Group I (claim 1) and Group II (Claims 2-16) is not proper while the restriction requirement between Group II (now claims 1-16), Group III (claims 17-29), and Group IV (claims 30-36) is proper and made Final.
- Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,462,702 issued in the name of Bowlds et al., (hereinafter "Bowlds"), in view of United States Patent No. 5,289,181, issued in the name of Watanabe et al., (hereinafter "Watanabe").

Claims 2-16, including independent claim 2, were originally presented for examination. Claim 1 has been reinstated and claims 17-36 have been withdrawn from consideration and cancelled by way of the present Response. Further, claim 7 has been cancelled, claims 1-2 and 8-9 have been amended and claim 37 has been added. No new subject matter is introduced by way of the present Response. Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 37, including independent claims 1-2 and 37, are currently pending. Favorable reconsideration of the present Response as currently constituted is respectfully requested.

THREE MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

This Response was due for reply by July 3, 2006 since the Office Action was mailed on April 3, 2006. A Three Month Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed. Therefore, per MPEP §710.01(a), the Three Month Extension of time extends the due date to October 3, 2006.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicant greatly appreciates the indication by the Examiner that the subject matter of Group I (claim 1) and Group II (claims 2-16) may be considered in a single application. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 17-36, without disclaimer or prejudice, and Applicant reserves the right to file divisional patent applications directed to the subject matter of Group III (claims 17-29) and Group IV (claims 30-36).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowlds in view of Watanabe. Applicant will discuss Bowlds and Watanabe prior to discussing the §103(a) rejection as it relates to each of claim 1, claims 2-6 and 8-16, and claim 37.

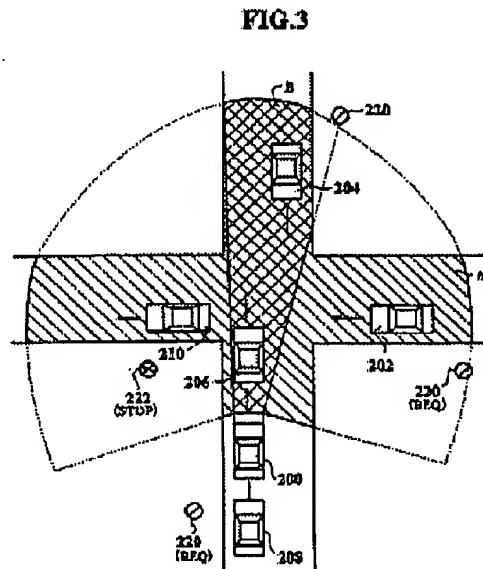
The Bowlds Reference

Bowlds discloses a Doppler-based traffic radar system and related method that provide for determining the direction and speed of at least one selected target traveling in the same lane as a moving patrol vehicle supporting the radar system. Bowlds neither discloses nor suggests alert methodologies that involve the monitoring of particular maneuvers of the moving patrol vehicle. The Examiner recognizes this deficiency of Bowlds and the Examiner made the following comments:

Bowlds does not disclose the following: "generating an alert to the operator of the primary vehicle when the one or more parameters of the primary vehicle and the one or more parameters of the closing vehicle are at a predetermined status." Office Action, Page 3.

The Watanabe Reference

Watanabe discloses a vehicle alarm system that permits each vehicle in a group of vehicles to notify the other vehicles of its presence. With reference to figure 3, all of the vehicles 200-210 are provided with an alarm system for exchanging alarm request signals and fixed alarm stop signals that permit



each vehicle to notify the other vehicles of its presence. The alarms generated by Wantanabe are to inform the driver that another vehicle is traveling out of the field of vision of the driver seeing frontward along the traveling direction due to, for example, an irregularity in the road such as a curve. Please see column 7, line 10 - column 8, line 33. Accordingly, Wantanabe neither discloses nor suggests alert methodologies that involve, as will be described in more detail hereinbelow, the monitoring of particular maneuvers of the moving vehicle.

Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method of warning the operator of a primary vehicle about the potential collision of a closing vehicle with the primary vehicle. In particular, claim 1 is directed to generating an alert to the operator of the primary vehicle following the presence of a U-turn maneuver. The U-turn maneuver is recited as a relatively sudden slowing of the primary vehicle velocity from a first velocity to a second velocity followed by a subsequent velocity increase from the second velocity to a third velocity, wherein the third velocity is greater than or equal to the first velocity and the first velocity is greater than the second velocity.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Bowlds and Watanabe does not suggest Applicant's claimed methodology of

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collision warning that incorporates the claimed criteria for monitoring for the presence of a U-turn pursuit maneuver. The combination of Bowlds and Watanabe does not suggest an alert or collision warning system that incorporates the claimed monitoring for a U-turn pursuit maneuver. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection and allowance of claim 1.

Claims 2-16

Similar to claim 1, claim 2 has been amended to further patentably differentiate the driving maneuvers of the primary vehicle from the subject matter presented in the prior art. As amended, claim 2 is directed to method of collision warning wherein an alert is generated in response to a speed variation pattern indicative of a U-turn maneuver or a vehicle transmission setting change maneuver. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Bowlds and Watanabe does not suggest such a collision warning system as monitoring U-turn maneuvers and monitoring vehicle transmission setting change maneuvers in conjunction with collision warning are neither contemplated nor discussed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection and allowance of claim 2 as well as allowance of claims 3-6 and 8-16 which depend from claim 2 and add further limitations.

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New Claim 37

Claim 37 is directed to a method of warning the operator of a primary vehicle about the potential collision of a closing vehicle with the primary vehicle. The method recites the limitations of determining the presence of a vehicle transmission setting change maneuver by monitoring the primary vehicle for a transition of a primary vehicle gear selector from a "Park" or "Neutral" position to a "Drive" position. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Bowlds and Watanabe does not suggest such a collision warning system that incorporates the concepts of monitoring the transition of a primary vehicle gear selector in conjunction with collision warning is neither contemplated nor discussed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits that claim 37, as presented, is allowable.

FEE STATEMENT

Applicant has enclosed form PTO-2038 authorizing payment of \$510.00 for the Three Month Extension of Time. Applicant believes no additional fees are due for the filing of this Response. If any fees are due, however, please charge our deposit account (Account No. 50-3215).

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 1-6, 8-16, and 37 presented for consideration herein. Accordingly, a favorable action in the form of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2006.

Respectfully submitted:

/Scott Griggs/

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